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# Message Text

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21
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 /087 W
---------- 104071
R 191658Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4846
INFO US MISSION EC BRUSSLES 6762
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS ROME 18595

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEEC, IT
SUBJ: ITALIAN REACTION TO EC COMMISSION 1976-77 FARM PRICE
PROPOSALS

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 11110; B. /11316; C. ROME 18159

1. SUMMARY: ITALIAN FARM GROUPS REACTION TO PROPOSED EC PRICES
REFS A. AND B. HAS BEEN FAIRLY MUTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF

THE ASSOCIATION OF CEREAL IMPORTES. END SUMMARY.

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2. CLOTIVATORI DIRETTI, THE ASSOCIATION OF SMALL-SCALE FARMERS

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AND A MAJOR SOURCE OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIS SUPPORT, HAS CLOSELY FOLLOWED THE COPA'S POSITION PRICES IN URGING AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 10.6 PERCENT AND IS THUS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE COMMISSION-PROPOSED 7.5 PERCENT. COLTIVATORI DIRETTI IS PARTICULARLY INSISTENT ON THE NEED FOR SUBSIDIES AND PROTECTION FOR MEDITER-RANEAN PRODUCTS, WHICH THE COPA POSITION ALSO ENDORSES.

3. CONFAGRICOLTURA, THE LARGE-SCALE FARMERS OFGANIZATION, BELIEVES THE COMMISSION'S PRICE PROPOSALS ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO MUCH ADJUSTMENT, HENCE THEY HAVE NOT MADE ANY SPECIFICCOMMENTS.

4. THE MOST VOCIFEROUS REACTION HAS COME FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF CEREAL IMPORTERS. IT HOLDS THAT THE PROPOSALS TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN FEED GRAINS AND FEED WHEAT TARGET PRICES ARE AIMED NOT ONLY AT DISPOSAL OF LOW QUALITY WHEAT, BUT ALSO AT GIVING FRENCH FEEDGRAIN PRODUCERS, PARTICULARLY CONR, A COMPETITIVE BOOST. THEY BELIEVE THERE WILL BE FEWER IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES IF THE PRICE RANGE IS ADOPTED, WITH ITALY ONCE AGAIN PAYING FOR FRENCH FARMERS' BENEFITS. THEY ALSO FORESEE DAMAGE TO IWALY'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY, WHICH THEY CLAIM WILL BE EVEN LESS COMPETITIVE GIVEN FRENCH PROXIMITY TO FEED SOURCES. THEY HOLD THE MINAG HOPES TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONS IN OTHER AREAS IN EXCHANGE FOR AGREEMENT HERE. THE ASSICIATION ALSO CONTUNUES TO PRESS FOR AN EXTENTION OF THE FEED GRAIN LEVY DISCOUNT FOR IMPORTS OF FEED GRAINS BY SEA.

5. NO OFFICIAL REACTION HAS YET BEEN OBTAINED FROM MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE EXCEPT SPECIFICALLY ON CORN AS REPORTED REF. (C).VOLPE

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**Subject:** ITALIAN REACTION TO EC COMMISSION 1976-77 FARM PRICE PROPOSALS
**TAGS:** EAGR, ETRD, IT, EEC
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